Tobacco Auction

800. DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco auctions picked up in Andhra Pradesh in June, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total production of tobacco *in* Andhra Pradesh this year; and

(d) how much of this production has been auctioned, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantities of FCV tobacco marketed every month in the current auctions in Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

February, 2000	0.08 M.Kgs.
March, 2000	0.14 M.Kgs.
April, 2000	1.46 M.Kgs.
May, 2000	15.26 M.Kgs.
June, 2000	23.90 M.Kgs.
July, 2000	26.79 M.Kgs.(upto 26.7.2000)

(c) The estimated total production of FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh this year is 138.68 M.Kgs.

(d) A total quantity of 67.63 M.Kgs. has been marketed as on 26.7.2000.

Rising trend in Export

801. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where exports have taken a rising trend during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase;

(c) whether Government initiatives have helped in further boosting the export; and

(d) the areas where the export performance is showing a negative trend with details?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Due to various policy initiatives undertaken by the Government, the exports have shown a positive growth during 1999-2000 and in the first two months of 2000-2001. The major areas where exports have shown significant growth during 1999-2000 (the latest period for which such data are available) are pulses (76.3%), tobacco (26.5%), nuts and seeds (39.1%), processed foods (20.4%), marine products (13.6%), gems & jewellery (28.8%), chemicals and related items (13.7%), engineering goods (14.9%), textiles (11.2%), carpets (11.6%), etc. The areas which have shown negative growth include tea (-23.3%), coffee (-23.4%), cereals (-51.9%), oil meals (-19.8%), leather and manufactures (-7.4%), sports goods (-11.9%), project goods (-78.0%) and petroleum products (-66.5%).

Import of used Cars

802. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposal to permit import of used cars in India;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to assess its bad impact on Indian automobile industry with findings thereof;

(c) whether similar steps have been taken in other developing countries also;

(d) if so, what impact it had in those countries with details thereof;

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the domestic automobile industry from cheap foreign made used cars; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) Cars are classified under Exim Code No. 87.0 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002, and import of these items is presently restricted. In view of India's International commitments, all quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India for balance of payment reasons are required to be removed by 1.4.2001.

Research and Information System for the Non Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has conducted a study on behalf of Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers on the WTO Regime and